with him as in the case of sitting MPs, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government are considering a proposal to allow the travel of companion in First Class or 2 tier A/C along with Ex-MPs instead of in 3 tier, if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. A proposal to allow the travel of companion in First Class/A.C. Sleeper, along with the ex-Member of Parliament, instead of an attendent in Second Class, is under consideration.

Complaints Regarding Inconvenience Faced by passengers in Trains

1528. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of complaints received by Government during the last one year in regard to the inconvenience faced by the passengers in trains; and

(b) the steps taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Stopping of Diesel Locomotives on electrical routes

1529. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any decision has been taken by Government to stop running of diesel locomotives on electrified routes even for shunting purpose; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Conversion of metre gauge to broad gauge

1530. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA :
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS :
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the steps taken during the current year for the conversion of the metre gauge into broad gauge; the details of the length of kilometers and expenditure incurred;

(b) what are the future plans for conversion and expenditure incurred thereon; and

(c) what are the details of the work done for the conversion of Delhi-Ahmedabad metre-gauge track passing through Rajasthan and expenditure incurred thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) An action plan for conversion of M.G./N.G. lines to Broad Gauge has been taken up under which it is proposed to convert 6,000 Kms of such lines to Broad Gauge during the VIII Five Year Plan at a cost of Rs. 3900 crores. Expenditure to be incurred in 92-93 is Rs. 550 crores.

(c) Work has been started on conversion of Delhi—Ahmedabad Metre Gauge lines. The section from Delhi to Rewari will be completed in 92-93 and Rewari—Jaipur in 93-94. Expenditure planned to be incurred on these lines during 92-93 is Rs. 51 crores.

Electric Locomotives

1531. DR. BAPU KALDATE :
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cost of the ABB electric locomotives is likely to escalate by almost 100 per cent;

(b) if so, what are the circumstances leading to the abnormal escalation in the price of locomotives;

(c) what is the total expenditure estimated to be incurred as a consquence thereof as against the original cost; and

(d) what decision has been taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir. The offer of M/s. ABB which has been accepted is firm price offer, in the currency of

the quotation, viz, Swiss France and Deutsche Marks.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Bhavnagar Tarapore Bombay Coastal broad gauge Railway Project

1532. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bhavnagar Tarapore Bombay Coastal broad gauge Railway project which is the shortest route for the entire Saurashtra region to link with Bombay has been pending for more than a decade and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government would earn more revenue and save unnecessary expenditure in case the above project is implemented; and

(c) whether Government propose to include this project in 8th Five Year Plan and if so, what are the details thereof and also the estimated cost thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) survey report has revealed that the project will be financially unremunerative.

(c) (i) No, Sir.

(ii) Does not arise.

Purchase of Switches and crossings from firms not capable of supplying

1533. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that RDSO suggested to Railways for purchasing of switches and crossings from certain firms who were not capable of supplying these materials; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) The position in respect of purchase of switches and crossings from firms is as under :—

Regular orders for the tendered quantity for fabrication and supply of switches and crossings are being placed on seven firms who are the established suppliers for these items.

In addition, developmental orders each for 100 nos. of switches and crossings outside the tendered quantity have been approved and processed for placement on 13 firms in order to promote new avenues of supply of these items and to create competition.

Developmental orders are being placed on 13 firms who shall have to get the prototypes of switches and crossings inspected and cleared by Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO) before regular manufacture to ensure that switches and crossings confirm to requisite specifications.

Earnings from the Tube Railway, Calcutta

1534. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is a fact that the earnings of the tube railway in Calcutta has gone down by 30 per cent since the hike in fares; and

(b) by when the entire tube railway projects in Calcutta is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) In 1995.

पूर्व रेलवे में चोरी के मामले

1535. **श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह** : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) गत एक वर्ष के दौरान पूर्व रेलवे में चोरी की कितनी घटनाएं हुई और उन में कितना माल बरामद किया गया है;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि रेलवे में चोरी के ऐसे मामलों में रेलवे कर्मचारियों और रेलवे पुलिस की मिलीभगत होने के आरोप लगाए जाते हैं ; और